

Pilgrimage to the Shrines of Spain



Spiritual Director
Very Rev. Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R.

Your Trip Includes:

- Round-trip Airfare from your Hometown
- Airport Taxes and Fuel Surcharges
- 9 Nights Accommodation at Centrally Located First Class Hotels as Follows: (or similar)
 - 1 night: Dec 02 – 03: Hotel Sercotel Caspe, Barcelona
 - 2 nights: Dec 03 – 05: Hotel Abad Cisneros, Montserrat
 - 2 nights: Dec 05 – 07: Hotel Only You Atocha, Madrid
 - 2 nights: Dec 07 – 09: Salamanca: Abba Fonseca
 - 2 nights: Dec 09 – 11: Hotel Compostela, Santiago de Compostela
- Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Daily
- Wine and Mineral Water with Dinners
- Transfers as per Itinerary
- Transportation by Air-conditioned Motor Coach
- Whisper Headsets Where Needed
- Assistance of a Professional Local Catholic Guide(s)
- Sightseeing and Admissions Fees as per Itinerary
- Mass Daily & Spiritual Activities
- Luggage Handling (1 piece per person)
- Flight Bag & Digital Confirmation of all Travel Documents

December 01 – 11, 2024

**\$5,457 per person
from New York (JFK)**

*All prices based on double occupancy.
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Our Lady of Montserrat



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Sample Daily Itinerary

Day 1, Sun, Dec 01: Depart for Barcelona

Make your way to your airport where you will board your overnight flight. Your meals are served on board.

Day 2, Mon, Dec 02: Arrive in Barcelona

Upon arrival in Barcelona, collect your luggage in the baggage claim area, and continue to the arrival hall where you will be greeted by your tour guide and/or driver. Make your way to the vehicle for your transfer to your hotel. Upon arrival, check-in, and have free time to rest and refresh or explore. This evening, enjoy a welcoming dinner, followed by an overnight in Barcelona.

Day 3, Tue, Dec 03: Barcelona – Manresa – Montserrat

Begin with breakfast and a sightseeing tour of Barcelona! Enjoy the stunning panoramic views of the Port of Barcelona, Montjuic, Plaza de España, and Plaza de Catalunya. Plaza de España is right outside the center of town, formerly known for its old bull-fighting ring. Presently, the Plaza is renowned for containing the Museum of Catalan art, situated on the side of Montjuic. Your day of touring will continue with a guided walk through the Gothic Quarter containing remains from an ancient Roman village, including the Cathedral of Barcelona. We will continue to the Eixample quarter to visit Antoni Gaudi's stunning, unfinished Roman Catholic Basilica, La Sagrada Familia. In the afternoon, we will travel to Manresa to visit the Sanctuary of Saint Ignatius of Loyola and the Holy Cave where St. Ignatius lived. Continue to Montserrat, home to the miraculous Black Madonna. Arrive in time for dinner and overnight.

Day 4, Wed, Dec 04: Montserrat

After breakfast, we visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Montserrat, located on a rugged mountainside. According to Catholic tradition circa 50 A.D., St. Luke carved the statue of the Black Madonna and brought it to Spain. While in Spain, it was kept hidden from the Moors and later was discovered by shepherds. In 880 A.D., shepherds and the Bishop of Manresa were drawn to a grotto by a bright light and heavenly music. Upon discovery of the Black Madonna statue, the Bishop of Manresa suggested to move it to Manresa. However, the statue was too heavy and could not be lifted. As a result, the Virgin remained in Montserrat and continued to be venerated there for centuries. As years progressed, several chapels were built upon the site. In the eleventh century, the Abbot- Bishop Oliba founded the Monastery on Montserrat next to one of these chapels. Dinner and overnight.

Day 5, Thu, Dec 05: Montserrat – Zaragoza – Madrid

This morning, following breakfast, depart for Zaragoza. While in Zaragoza, you will have the opportunity to visit the magnificent Basilica del Pilar, built upon the site of where Our Lady appeared to St. James in 44 A.D. According to Catholic Tradition, the Virgin Mary, who was still living in Jerusalem, bi-located and appeared to St. James the Greater to boost his morale. While inside the Basilica, you will view the pillar carried by angels, and from atop Our Lady appeared. After the visit to the Basilica del Pilar, continue to La Seo Cathedral (Cathedral of Zaragoza) formally known as the church of San Vicente. Explore Zaragoza on a walking tour of the city. This evening, continue to Madrid, where you will eat your dinner and enjoy a restful overnight.

Day 6, Fri, Dec 06: Madrid & Toledo

After breakfast, we will enjoy a tour of Madrid which includes the Royal Palace and Plaza Mayor. Next, we visit Toledo located on a rocky mound isolated on three sides right by a looping gorge of the Río Tajo. Toledo is known as the city of the Three Religions or Cultures. For many centuries the Christians, the Moors, and the Jews lived together in relative equality and peace. The city surrounded by walls hides great treasure: its beautiful Church of Santo Tomé, the Tránsito Synagogue, Santa María la Blanca Synagogue, the Church of San Juan de Los Reyes, Puerta de Bisagras, Puerta del Cambrón, Puerta del Sol, etc. We return to Madrid for dinner and overnight.

Day 7, Sat, Dec 07: Madrid – Avila – Salamanca

This morning, following breakfast, you will head to Avila. The conservation of architecture in this city, to which St. Teresa was born, deems its shrines, convents, and churches necessary to visit any Catholic pilgrimage. The Cathedral de Avila encompasses the Romanesque, Gothic, and Renaissance styles of its time with its artwork and architecture. La Basilica de San Vicente in Avila stands on the site of the martyrdom of St. Vincent. Visit the Incarnation Convent, where St. Teresa became a nun. Saint Teresa convinced Saint John of the Cross to reform the male Carmelite order, the reform she started when she met Saint John in Medina del Campo. Continue your journey to the village of Alba de Tormes. This town is home to the Carmelite Monastery that Saint Teresa founded in 1571. Celebrate Mass at the Monastery where she died and was buried. Visit the museum dedicated to St. Teresa of Avila, which holds her incorrupt heart and left arm. Leave to Salamanca for dinner and overnight.

Day 8, Sun, Dec 08: Salamanca

Following a full breakfast at the hotel enjoy a full day tour of Salamanca. Our walking tour will bring us to the most noteworthy sites, such as; the grand Plaza Mayor, an iconic square filled with food, shopping, and city events. La Clerecia, a church, and college of the Jesuit Order constructed in the seventeenth century. La Casa de las Conchas currently a public library and monument, decorated with shells that symbolize the famous pilgrimage to Santiago (El Camino). The University of Salamanca is the oldest University in Spain and the third oldest in Europe. The Roman Bridge is a national monument that extends along the River Tormes. La Iglesia de San Marcos contains breathtaking paintings that portray many scenes of Our Lady's life. La Iglesia de San Martin is devoted to St. Martin de Porres, who is the patron saint of mixed-race people and all those seeking interracial harmony. Visit the inside of the two joint Salamanca Cathedrals (old and new), one Romanesque style and the other Gothic style. Return to your hotel for a delicious meal and overnight at your hotel in Salamanca.

Day 9, Mon, Dec 09: Salamanca – Santiago de Compostela

Today, you will depart Salamanca and head towards the city of Santiago de Compostela. While en route, you will make a stop on the calle del Agua de Villafranca del Bierzo. At the entrance of this village, you will find the Romanesque church of Santiago. According to tradition, the pilgrims who were unable to finish El Camino as a result of an illness would receive the jubilee blessing at this church. Your next two stops will be visits to the gothic styled Collegiate Church of Santa Maria and the Church of St. Nicolas, dedicated to the patron Saint of Villafranca del Bierzo. This afternoon, you will enter Galicia by way of the city, Lugo. Your first stop will be to O Cebreiro where you will have the opportunity to view the iconic palloza styles houses, and the site of a Eucharistic Miracle that occurred in the year 1300. Continue to Santiago de Compostela for your dinner and an overnight.

Day 10, Tue, Dec 10: Santiago de Compostela

This morning, you will walk a few miles of El Camino and experience the breathtaking scenery. Later this morning, join in the International Pilgrim Mass at the Cathedral of St. James. There will be free time for lunch followed with a visit the Cathedral of Santiago. When entering, tradition will lead, as you will hug the dazzling statue of St. James. You will descend into the crypt where the Patron Saint of Pilgrims' relics are displayed. Enjoy a sightseeing tour of the city including the Obradoiro Square, Fonseca Palace, Gemirez Palace, Franco Street, and much more. Spend the evening at your leisure until a final dinner with your group and an overnight in Santiago de Compostela.

Day 11, Wed, Dec 11: Return Home

In the early morning, transfer to A Coruna airport or Santiago Airport for your return flight(s) home. You will say 'hasta luego' (see you later) to your new friends made on this journey.

****206 Tours Disclaimer: Though every effort will be made to follow the itinerary, it should be considered as an indication, rather than a contract of places to be visited. Occasionally local religious holidays, national days, weather, traffic conditions and other events may necessitate changes in the sequence of visits or the missing of certain visits.***